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#02368

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1056-68

29 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

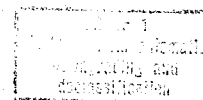
SUBJECT : Request for Approval of Binocular Tube Magnifier Contract with [redacted]
[redacted] from FY-1968 Funding

1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of funds for a Research and Development contract with [redacted]. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 7.

2. The tube magnifier is a basic and probably the most commonly used optical device in the photo interpretation process. These devices permit a PI to rapidly inspect aerial imagery at various magnifications with one eye. Because of the limitations inherent in viewing with only one eye--somewhat analogous to using a telescope rather than binoculars to view a scene--NPIC undertook to develop a binocular tube magnifier in FY-1965. The prototype unit was fabricated by [redacted] and was subsequently delivered to NPIC. After a successful prototype evaluation was completed, various operational components expressed a desire to purchase production units; however, when a competitive solicitation was made for production quantities, the lowest bid was for more than a thousand dollars per unit in quantities of a hundred units.

3. NPIC then began to investigate means to change the prototype design to enable economical production, while maintaining the highly desirable features of the original design. The [redacted] has submitted a proposal to construct a new prototype of a design which can be produced in quantities of one hundred units for [redacted] each. The design relies heavily on the utilization of optical components that have been used in the fabrication of their commercial microscopes. The new design maintains the basic performance characteristics and design parameters, including the physical configuration of the original prototype.

4. The Contracting Officer will be requested to negotiate this program in a single-phase, fixed-price contract. The total time anticipated for completion of this contract is 10 weeks after contract date.



Declass Review by NGA.

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from FY-1968 funding

5. In addition to [redacted] was invited to bid on this redesign. The [redacted] estimate of the cost to produce the new prototype was approximately four times that of the [redacted] bid. Additionally, the [redacted] production costs were slightly higher. [redacted] has been long recognized for its competence and leadership in the field of fixed magnification microscope design, and is considered to be capable of producing a useful instrument for NPIC.

6. This project has been coordinated with DDE&T and EXRAD, and there is no known equipment either under development or commercially available which will satisfy this requirement.

7. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate with the [redacted] for a contract to fabricate a prototype Binocular Tube Magnifier at a cost of [redacted]

[redacted]
Chief, Technical Services & Support Group,
NPIC

Attachment:
Catalog Form

APPROVED:

ARTHUR C. LUNDHAL
Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

20 MAR 1968

Date

Distribution:

- Original - NPIC/TSSG/SS/LB (After approval)
- 1 - NPIC/TSSG/SS
- 2 - NPIC/TSSG
- 2 - NPIC/TSSG/DED

NPIC/TSSG/DED, [redacted] (28 Feb 68)

SECRET

(When Filled In)

R & D CATALOG FORM		DATE
1. PROJECT TITLE/CODE NAME Binocular Tube Magnifier (Preproduction Model)		28 February 1968
2. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION A project to fabricate a preproduction version of a previously developed binocular tube magnifier.		
3. CONTRACTOR NAME		4. LOCATION OF CONTRACTOR
5. CLASS OF CONTRACTOR Manufacturer		6. TYPE OF CONTRACT Fixed Price
7. FUNDS FY 1967 \$ None	8. REQUISITION NO. NA	9. BUDGET PROJECT NO. NP-V-36-02368
FY 1968	10. EFFECTIVE CONTRACT DATE (Begin - end) NA	11. SECURITY CLASS. T - Unclassified W - Unclassified AA - Confidential
FY 1969 \$ None		
12. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE/OFFICE/PROJECT OFFICER TELEPHONE EXTENSION DDI/NPIC/TSSG		
13. REQUIREMENT/AUTHORITY An evaluation of the prototype binocular tube magnifier has shown a definite requirement for the instrument in operational situations.		
14. TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE Engineering Development		
15. CATEGORIES OF EFFORT		
MAJOR CATEGORY Viewing Systems	SUB-CATEGORIES Optical Systems Photo Interpretation	
16. END ITEM OR SERVICES FROM THIS CONTRACT/IMPROVEMENT OVER CURRENT SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT, ETC. This contract will produce one preproduction binocular tube magnifier. Utilization of this instrument will allow imagery inspection with two eyes rather than one eye.		
17. SUPPORTING OR RELATED CONTRACTS (Agency & Other)/COORDINATION TSSG knows of no related efforts which are either related or that would duplicate this effort in the intelligence community. The original prototype development was fully coordinated in 1965.		
18. DESCRIPTION OF INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT AND DETAILED TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Continue on additional page if required) The tube magnifier is the basic instrument used in the photo interpretation process. The existing devices permit the PI to inspect the imagery with only one eye. A binocular instrument will permit him to see the imagery with both eyes, thereby considerably reducing eyestrain. A prototype binocular tube magnifier was found acceptable in an operational evaluation, but proved too expensive to fabricate on a production basis. This project will produce a modified design that will enable production on an economical basis.		
19. APPROVED BY AND DATE		
OFFICE	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	DDCI